



Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd

Annual General Meeting Minute

12:07 - 12:33 p.m. 18 November, 2009 at the Urban Camp Melbourne Co-operative, Brens Drive, Parkville

Present:

Avoca District Co-operative Ltd (Tony O'Shea)
DemoDairy Co-operative Ltd (N. Black)
Footscray Rental Housding Co-operative Ltd (Rob Wardell)
Ruach Community Co-operative Ltd (Roy Bradley)
SouthEast Housing Co-operative (Shirley Faram)

David Dinning (Independent Director)

David Griffiths (Secretary)

Apologies and Proxies

Peagrowers Co-operative Ltd
Pyrenees Hay Processing Co-operative Ltd
Pyrenees Store Co-operative Ltd
Southern Produce Co-operative Ltd
Urban Camp Co-operative Ltd (Patrick O'Sullivan)
Waverley Trading Co Ltd
Westgate Health Co-operative Ltd

Apology

No apologies.

1. Minutes

That the minutes of the AGM of 19 November 2008 be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

M: SEHC S: Demo Dairy CARRIED

2. Financial and Directors Reports

That the reports from the board and officers of the Federation upon the transactions of the Federation during the 2008/09 financial year including the Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Account and state of affairs for the year ending 30 June 2009 be received.

M: SEHC S: Demo Dairy CARRIED

3. Remuneration of Directors

That Directors do not receive any remuneration as Directors for the 2009/10 financial year.

M: SEHC S: David Dinning CARRIED

4. Annual Subscription

That the following membership annual subscription levels for the financial year 2009/2010 be approved:

| Annual Turnover \$ | Annual Subscription \$ |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 0 -100,000 | \$165 |
| 101,000-500,000 | \$275 |
| 500,001-1 million | \$385 |
| 1-2 million | \$550 |
| 2-3 million | \$825 |
| 3-4 million | \$1100 |
| 4-5 million | \$1375 |
| 5-6 million | \$1650 |
| 6-7.5 million | \$1925 |
| 7.5 – 10 million | \$2200 |
| 10 – 50 million | \$2750 |
| 50-100 million | \$3300 |
| 100 million plus | \$7000 |

M: David Dinning S: Demo Dairy CARRIED

5. Election of Directors

That David Dinning be reappointed as an independent director for three years.

M: Ruach Community Co-operative Ltd S: SEHC CARRIED

6. Annual Report

Tabled by Tony O'Shea.

Co-operative Autonomy

Unnecessary legislation, regulation and public policy are onerous on co-operatives and until 2008, for example, small co-operatives in Victoria were required to engage registered company auditors. The onerous consequence of this for small co-operatives was to eliminate or substantially reduce small surpluses. Co-operatives Victoria lobbied the Victoria Government to change this and succeeded. Small co-operatives can now seek exemption from audit.

Co-operative Education

Our work with the UK Co-operative College has continued and a Co-operative Identity Workshop was conducted with the Southern Quality Produce Co-operative Ltd. This followed workshops in earlier years with the Murray Goulburn Co-operative Co Limited, CBH and Capricorn Society. Discussions are continuing with four other co-operatives about workshops in the future. The integration of co-operative education within business philosophy, strategy and practices provides the basis for co-operatives with business challenges that adaptation and change is an alternative to demutualisation.

Co-operative Federations

Co-operatives Victoria has been active in reviving the national co-operative peak body – Co-operatives Australia. Co-operatives Australia is the national body for State Co-operative Federations. It is an unincorporated body with membership by the Co-operative Federations of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia, and represents cooperatives in every sector of the Australian economy. While Co-operatives Australia does not have its own resources, the revival has been collegiate and each Federation has contributed significantly to the ongoing work of Co-operatives Australia. The State Federations rotate in providing the Chairperson and Secretary for Co-operatives Australia. Currently Victoria is providing the Chairperson and Secretary.

Co-operative Publications

Through Co-operatives Australia, Co-operatives Victoria has had a lead role in the development of policy statements on co-operation and the co-operative model. Two statements have been prepared and issued – Public Policy and Co-operatives (April 2009) and Australia's Top 100 Co-operatives, Credit Unions and Mutuals. (June 2009) Two further statements are in preparation on co-operative education and demutualisation. The Top 100 Co-operatives, Credit Unions and Mutuals was the first time a list had been published and sought to demonstrate the economic impact of co-operatives, credit unions and mutuals in Australia. Industries represented in the top 100 list include agriculture, financial services, insurance and retailing with a combined annual turnover in the order of \$20 billion. Work is currently proceeding on publishing a second listing.

Co-operative Rescue

For various reasons, co-operatives can get into financial challenges which threaten their survival as a co-operative. Governance can be a key issue in creating and resolving the challenge. Regretfully, however, too many co-operatives seek assistance from those who do not understand or are not sympathetic to the co-operative model. Yet, understanding

and sympathy are critical to co-operatives developing responses to challenges. This year, for instance, the Waverley Trading Co-operative Ltd was temporarily put into administration. It was the skill, experience and hard work of the Federation's Chairperson that has enabled Waverley to come out of administration. Without this contribution, the co-operative would no longer exist. Many co-operatives with similar challenges have the opportunity to adapt and change but this requires commitment and understanding.

Co-operative Web

When the australia.coop web site was established in 2003 by the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd, it was a goal that eventually the web site would become the responsibility of the national co-operative peak body. In 2009 Co-operatives Australia did agree to assume responsibility for australia.coop As a consequence of this decision, Co-operatives Victoria has established a new web site – <http://www.victoria.coop> As part of victoria.coop, there are three sub domains – education.victoria.coop, health.victoria.coop and news.victoria.coop

Created by Secretary: 18 November 2009

Approved by Chairperson: November 2009

Distributed to directors: by email November 2009 and by snail mail November 2009